

that the Great Head of the Church will, in due time, send them a pastor—one according to His own heart, who will feed them with knowledge and understanding.

The Rev. A. P. Miller was appointed to exchange with Mr. Grant on the first Sabbath of February, read this decision of the Presbytery to the congregation, and address to them suitable exhortation.

A call to the Rev. C. B. Pitblado, from the congregation of Chalmers' Church, Halifax, was laid upon the Presbytery's table, together with reasons for translation. The Clerk was directed to send Mr. Pitblado an official notice of his call, and the Rev. J. D. Murray was appointed to preach by exchange with him in Glenelg Church on the first Sabbath of February, intimate this call to the congregation, hand them the reasons for translation, and summon them to appear by commissioners for their interests at the next meeting of Presbytery.

The Rev. A. McL. Sinclair having been requested by the Home Mission Board to go and labour in Cape Breton until the end of March, the Presbytery agreed to supply his pulpit during his absence.

The Presbytery will hold their next meeting in John Knox's Church, New Glasgow, on Feb. 22, at 11 A.M., for ordinary business.

JOHN MACKINNON, Clerk.

OBITUARY.

Rev. John Sprott.

The *Record* of October last contained the following paragraph:—*Two Fathers Gone*.—"Rev. Thomas S. Crowe of Maitland, died on the 6th Sept., in the 83rd year of his age and the 54th of his ministry."

Rev. John Sprott of Musquodoboit, died on the 16th ult., in the 90th year of his age. Mr. Crowe was the "Father" of the Synod, and we believe the oldest minister in Nova Scotia. Mr. Sprott was probably next in age as a minister, but older as a man. In the next *Record* we hope to give brief memoirs of these venerable departed fathers."

For three months our promise remained unfulfilled, chiefly because unexpected missionary intelligence required immediate publicity. Having, however, in our last number given a sketch of the life and labours of Mr. Crowe, we shall now perform the same service of love for the other Father. As none of his early associates remain to fulfil this duty, our readers must be content with a few facts and recollections furnished by one born years after he had become an official labourer in the vineyard of Christ.

To those who have heard him speak from the pulpit or by the fireside, it is scarcely

necessary to say that he was a Scotchman; and all who are familiar with his published letters, will remember that his birth-place was in the South, and that he was brought up among the green hills and glens of Galloway. His frequent allusions to the character of the Scottish martyrs, and to the scenes of their trials, as well as the recurrence of such names as Cameron, Peden and Renwick, hint at the fact, that he was brought up among that faithful and noble body of men known as Covenanters or Reformed Presbyterians.

Born at Stony Kirk in 1780, and taught by pious parents, he was schooled at Stranraer, from which he was transferred to Edinburgh, where he prosecuted his University course. Having completed his collegiate and theological studies, he was licensed in connection with the Reformed Presbyterian body in 1809. For nine years, he preached the gospel in his native land, and then crossing the Atlantic in 1818, he sought employment in connection with the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, which had been formed in the previous year. On the 30th of June, 1819, he was formally received by the Synod, as the following minute will show:

"The Rev. Messrs. Graham, McCulloch and Blackwood, and Mr. James Johnstone were appointed a Committee to converse with Mr. John Sprott, preacher of the gospel, who wished to connect himself with the Synod; and the said Committee having reported that having met with Mr. Sprott, they were satisfied with his credentials; and Mr. Sprott having signified that he was satisfied with the principles maintained by this Synod, Mr. Sprott was admitted as a preacher of the gospel into the communion of this Church."

We call attention to an appointment which immediately followed, because it shews the spirit of the body which he joined, and the kind of work in which he delighted.

"Messrs. Blackwood and Sprott were appointed on a mission to the Western part of the Province, Messrs. Laidlaw and Douglas on a mission to the Northern part of the Province, on the coast of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and Mr. Lewis on a mission to the country eastward from St. Mary's. They were instructed to go forth in the true spirit of Christian missionaries, preaching the gospel to all who are disposed to listen to them, and dispensing such other ordinances as prudence may warrant and circumstances may require. They were charged to seek out the Presbyterians in particular, who live in the districts which they may visit, and others also who stand in need of instruction; to mingle freely with Christians of every denomination, and preach the gospel freely as from the lips of Jesus Christ without money and without